

health. There are over 150 prisoners of conscience in Vietnam. We should not forget them.

Some have made the case that Vietnam has made progress in recent years with respect to human rights, especially in regard to joining international agreements like the United Nations Convention Against Torture. In order for there to be real progress, the Vietnamese Government needs to back up its words with actions. The Vietnamese Government can show that it is serious about respecting and protecting human rights by crafting a new religion law that rolls back some of the many constraints on religious activities, but early indications the new law will actually be more restrictive. Vietnam can lift its draconian Internet restrictions and allow for independent labor organizations. Labor protections and Internet freedom are critical economic as well as human rights issues.

Despite the dismal status for human rights in Vietnam, we can exert pressure on the Vietnamese Government to cease these abuses. I have reintroduced the Vietnam Human Rights Act. The Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2015 seeks to promote the development of freedom and democracy in Vietnam by stipulating that the United States can increase its non-humanitarian assistance to Vietnam above FY2012 levels only when the President is able to certify that the Government of Vietnam has made substantial progress in establishing human rights protections. The United States should not be rewarding the Vietnamese regime with taxpayer dollars when it continues to violently repress its own people.

Swift Congressional action on this bill will send a strong message that U.S. will not tolerate continuing human rights abuses in Vietnam. Its enactment will send an unmistakable message to the Government of Vietnam that human rights improvements are fundamental to better relations, critically linked to our mutual economic and security interests, and cannot be ignored or bargained away.

Those intent on passing TPP should also be concerned with maximizing leverage over Vietnam, with the Vietnamese Government making true and lasting concessions on human rights, before we agree to provide them with the benefits of trade.

In fact, we heard from a witness at a recent hearing I held, the Reverend Nguyen Manh Hung of the Mennonite Church of Vietnam, how a religious leader has been threatened by security forces who told him that once TPP is passed, his house of worship will be torn down. This is a message that Congress, and the American people need to hear, before we continue to debate TPP in the abstract: There should be no trade deal with Vietnam without milestones being met on human rights on a permanent and sustainable basis.

RECOGNIZING THE WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA YMCA FOR 100 YEARS OF HISTORY AND SERVICE

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 23, 2015*

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Waynesboro Area YMCA on the

occasion of its 100th year of service to the Waynesboro community.

The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) was first established in 1844, and has grown into a worldwide organization that represents the pursuit of a healthy body, mind, and spirit. The Waynesboro community has been fortunate to have the Waynesboro Area YMCA since 1915, and today I congratulate the organization for 100 years of positive impact on the community.

From the momentous laying of the original building's cornerstone to today, the Waynesboro Area YMCA's Board of Directors, staff, and community members have put an impressive amount of work into continually growing and improving the Y's impact on the community. Countless renovations, fundraising efforts, and hours of work have enabled the Waynesboro Area Y to reach a community presence of which its 1915 founders would be proud.

Today the Waynesboro Y has a membership of nearly 3,600 people and offers more than 100 different programs. With a true communal spirit, it financially assists over 300 youth and 150 adults for membership and programs, providing over \$90,000 in scholarships annually. Though much has changed about the Waynesboro Y, it has remained committed to the principles by which it was founded—the pursuit of a healthy body, mind, and spirit with a Christian basis.

I am privileged to congratulate the Waynesboro Area YMCA for a century of history and service to the Waynesboro community, and to thank all who have helped this YMCA continue its success.

IN HONOR OF KEITH ISRAEL

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 23, 2015*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable public service career of Keith Israel, who is retiring as the General Manager of the Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA), after 27 years. Under Mr. Israel's leadership, the MRWPCA has grown to serve 250,000 people and treat 18.5 million gallons each day.

After obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering and a Masters in both Environmental Engineering and Business Administration, Mr. Israel worked for five years as General Manager of the Victor Valley Wastewater Reclamation District. In 1988, Mr. Israel came to the Monterey Peninsula and immediately began to revolutionize the work of the MRWPCA. In the 1990's, MRWPCA constructed the Regional Treatment Plant (RTP) near Marina under his leadership. The efficiency and new treatment plans spearheaded by Mr. Israel and brought about by the RTP's development led to increased economic opportunity and business and housing development in the Monterey region. Also in the 1990's, Mr. Israel began collaborating with the Monterey County Water Resources Agency to begin a project to reduce groundwater withdrawal and allow for the use of recycled water for 12,000 acres of farmland in the Salinas Valley.

Throughout his tenure at the MRWPCA, Mr. Israel has served as a visionary, coordinating

the Salinas River Diversion Project and Pure Water Monterey Project, all while working tirelessly to facilitate collaboration between local leaders to advocate for sustainable water resources. Because of Mr. Israel's dedication to reducing the MRWPCA's carbon footprint, the agency has made great strides in the implementation of environmentally progressive processes, leading to recognition such as the Breathe California Central Coast Clean-Air Award and a partnership with ENERGY STAR. Mr. Israel has also built a personal reputation of excellence in the industry; throughout his career, he has served on the Boards of American Water Works Association and WateReuse Association and maintained leadership positions in the California Association of Sanitation Agencies.

Mr. Speaker, I know that I speak for the whole House in sharing our gratitude to Keith for a job well done and extend our best wishes to him and his family this next chapter of life. I know that even in retirement, he will still find himself involved in the community and continue to better the Monterey Peninsula just as he has done through his work at the MRWPCA these last 27 years.

RECOGNIZING LT. CHRIS MILLER

**HON. JULIA BROWNLEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 23, 2015*

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Lieutenant Chris J. Miller, Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Station Channel Islands Harbor, on the special occasion of his transfer to the Coast Guard District Eight New Orleans District Response Advisory Team.

During his time as Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Miller expertly managed 51 active duty and reserve personnel while directing the safe and efficient completion of over 3,000 underway hours, conducting more than 1,400 missions and sorties in support of 176 Search and Rescue cases and 300 recreational and commercial boardings. His leadership resulted in the saving of 53 lives, the preservation of over 4.5 million dollars in property, and significantly improved boating safety along the coast of California.

Under his command, Lieutenant Miller regularly held annual National Safe Boating expos, each hosting between 800 to 1,000 visitors annually and provided an average of 420 tours of station boats including hosting 22 marine supply vendors, fire rescue, police, Red Cross and local maritime organizations. The Expo continues to issue over 90 new lifejackets and promote rescue demonstrations that are highly successful and showcase the efforts made by the United States Coast Guard.

Additionally, Lieutenant Miller's outstanding leadership has resulted in his receipt of numerous awards and accolades to include the Coast Guard Commendation and Coast Guard Achievement Medals, Commandant Letter of Commendation Medals, Coast Guard Good Conduct Medals, as well as a number of other personal and service awards.

Along with his exemplary service in the United States Coast Guard, Lieutenant Miller is an active leader in the community balancing a rigorous work schedule with serving community needs in several local organizations. He